

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave NW Floor 2  
Washington DC 20268

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

JAN 22 2010

January 9, 2010

RECEIVED

2010 JAN 26 A 10:40

Soshana Grove, Secretary

Petition for Review


POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

A 2010-2

I am a resident and business owner in Steamboat Springs, CO, who frequents the Sundance Post Office almost on a daily basis for post office box and retail services. I would like to file a Petition for Review of the determination by the USPS to close the retail side of this office by January 15, 2010.

There have in my opinion been numerous instances when the USPS has not followed the guidelines properly in this process. For instance, enclosed you will find a questionnaire that was given to the post office box holders and the results compiled in a bar graph. It is obvious that none of the questions could have possibly resulted in the conclusions displayed in this graph. In contrast, I have done my own research and collected over 2,000 signatures (see enclosed petition) which states quite the opposite.

Thanks so much for your consideration,

  
Renee Mestan  
P.o. Box 881383  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80488  
(970) 846-5831 (cell)

January 9, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave NW Floor 2  
Washington DC 20268

Soshana Grove, Secretary

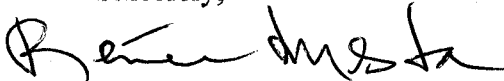
Suspension Pending Review

I would like to make an application for suspension pending review. The Postal Service is planning to cease retail services at the Sundance Post Office in Steamboat Springs, CO after January 15, 2010 and begin the removal of retail equipment on January 16, 2010. There has not yet been approval by the vice president, Delivery and Retail. According to the USPS Handbook PO-101 section 722

“The vice president, Delivery and Retail, must approve or disapprove the proposed discontinuance. No final action on a proposed discontinuance may be taken without the vice president’s approval”

If the discontinuance is disapproved or remanded by the PRC, the retail equipment will have to be reinstalled at an additional expense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee Mestan", written over a horizontal line.

Renee Mestan  
P.o. Box 881383  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80488  
(970) 846-5831 (cell)

# Customer Notice

Posted on  
2505  
on 12/10/09

Retail Services will cease at this location after 1/15/2010.  
PO Box service will remain at this location until further  
notice.

In addition to the Main Post Office, you can purchase  
stamps at our website [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

or

by calling 1-800-stamp-24. You can also print your own  
shipping labels and pay for postage using Click-N-Ship at  
[www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your business.



# BOCES has larger deficit

Group working to address additional \$10,000 shortfall from draft audit

Page 11

SPORTS



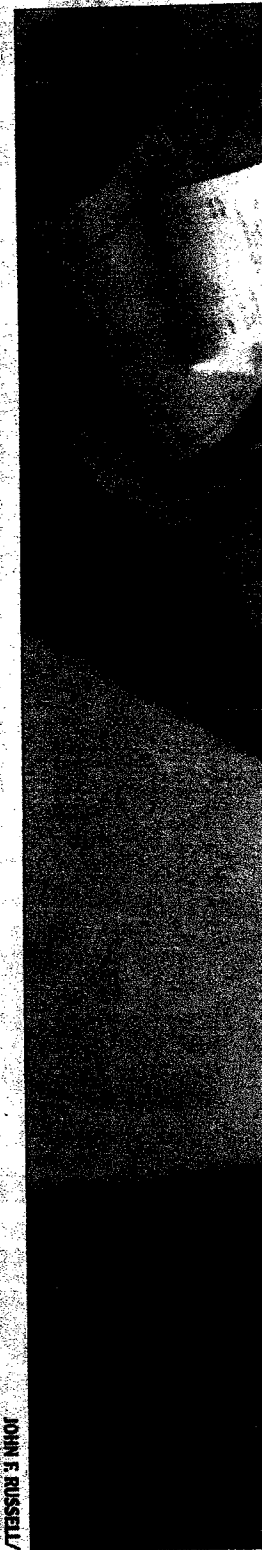
## Shoot-Out to kick off

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**Post office employee Don Clavarr** helps customer Michael Condie at the Sundance Plaza branch of the U.S. Postal Service. The post office reports that retail p service there will end Jan. 15, and post office box service there could end March 15.



JOHN F. RUSSELL/

# Postal services to change

Sundance branch to end shipping Jan. 15; P.O. box service could end in Mar

**Mike Lawrence**  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Retail postal service will end Jan. 15 at the Sundance post office, and negotiations are under way to keep P.O. boxes there after March 15.

The U.S. Postal Service's lease at the Sundance at Fish Creek branch was scheduled to end this month, but Postal Service spokesman Al DeSarro said Wednesday that an exten-

sion will allow shipping and retail services to continue at the south-side branch into early next year. Steamboat Springs Postmaster Tim O'Brien said after Jan. 15, four Sundance employees will move to the downtown branch, where retail services will be consolidated.

"Obviously, we will be busier here — we're set up to handle it," O'Brien said about the Third Street and Lincoln Avenue branch. "The existing staff that manned the windows

(at Sundance) will man the win-

dows here." The lease for the P.O. box space at Sundance is under negotiation, but DeSarro said regardless of whether P.O. boxes remain at Sundance after March 15, the branch's nearly 2,600 boxes "will stay in that vicinity in Steamboat."

DeSarro said that could mean housing the boxes in vacant commercial space or installing modular units at the potential site of a new, main post office

See **Sundance**, page 13

## SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area			
New snow —	Mid-mountain 5.5 in.	Total snow	50.75 in.
New snow —	Summit 1 in.	Trails open	35/65
Base —	Mid-mountain 19 in.	Lifts open	6/18
Base —	Summit 20 in.	Conditions	Packed powder

"24-hour snowfall of 10 to 15 inches for up-to-date road conditions, call 800-451-7444."

## THERE'S MORE ONLINE

For around-the-clock updates, breaking local news and sports scores, videos, photos and an interactive community forum, visit [www.steamboatpilot.com](http://www.steamboatpilot.com).



12/10/09

# Larson: Negotiations have been a challenge

Sundance continued from 1

disappointed that the post office has chosen to shut down the service portion, but we don't have any control over that. ... We're at least hoping we can get the P.O. boxes to stay here, for the benefit of customers on this side of town."

Larson said the negotiations have been challenging.

"I can say that the whole experience working with the post office and trying to pre-serve P.O. box and postal service has been a long and difficult process. We hope that we're getting close and feel like we're almost there," he said.

O'Brien said efforts to redesign traffic flow in the downtown branch's main parking lot, to mitigate increased use, have been well-received. Traffic can no longer exit the parking lot onto U.S. Highway 40. Traffic can exit only via a right turn onto Third Street, after traveling counterclockwise in the lot.

"I see that most people are following that change and most people are aware of it," O'Brien said.

The Postal Service is facing significant financial shortfalls stemming at least in part from the economic recession. Mail volume declined by 10 billion parcels in federal fiscal year 2008, and the Postal Service lost \$2.8 billion.

## Christmas shipping

Tim O'Brien, Steamboat Springs postmaster for the U.S. Postal Service, offered the following dates and tips for sending packages in the holiday season.

- The deadline has passed for sending mail by Christmas to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the Postal Service will get all packages there as soon as possible.
- Friday is the deadline for any other overseas location.
- Dec. 21 is the deadline for U.S. locations out of state.
- Dec. 22 is the deadline for Colorado locations.
- Dec. 23 is the deadline for sending express packages by Christmas, but that service is available only to metro areas near a major airport.
- The Postal Service handles about 17 billion pieces of mail nationwide from Thanksgiving through Christmas.
- Monday is expected to be the busiest mailing day.
- The Postal Service expects about 880 million pieces of mail nationwide that day.
- On a busy day in Steamboat, local post offices handle 2,000 to 3,000 packages.
- The Postal Service is offering priority mail, flat-rate boxes this year. If it fits in the box and weighs less than 70 pounds, it'll ship anywhere in the U.S. for \$4.95, \$10.95 or \$18.95, depending on the box size.
- The Postal Service can't ship items that are flammable, are toxic or contain alcohol.
- Use a complete, printed address and name, with a complete return address, on cards and letters.
- Pack packages tightly and securely.
- Remove batteries from toys and appliances, so they don't turn on during shipping.
- Use strong packing tape. Avoid paper or string on the outside of a package if possible.
- Include a paper inside the box with addresses and a list of contents. In case the package is damaged in transit.
- ZIP codes and shipping rates are available online at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) or by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS.

DeSarro said federal legislation in 2009 — and a work force reduction of about 40,000 employees — helped the Postal Service cut its losses from potentially \$7 billion to about \$3.8 billion in 2009. DeSarro said the Postal Service is projecting "at least a \$3 billion deficit" in federal fiscal year 2010.

But he said shipping delays or staff shortages are not expected in the upcoming holiday rush.

"We're not looking at longer mailing times," he said. "The only thing that's kind of holding us up a little bit here is the bad weather."

Shipping and stamp sales also are available at PostNet, in the 1600 block of Mid Valley Drive near the Staples store in southern Steamboat. Those services cost more than federal services.

— To reach Mike Lawrence, call 871-4233 or e-mail [milawrence@steamboatlocal.com](mailto:milawrence@steamboatlocal.com)

**LOCAL ARTISTS**  
**CONDISPLAY**

Token Threadz

Let Monthly exhibit featuring local designers and makers of their exclusive trade

**'Micholette's Creative Cuisine' (CUPCAKES)**

**'Karymaureen Hat's and Fingerless gloves'**

**'Just Right Jewels' by Heather Bolles**

**'Jewelry by Lori'**

December 11th  
@ Token Threadz  
5-7pm

Buy from **Local Artists** Call for Details  
Shop **Local** this Christmas 871-4732

**H1N1 AND SEASONAL  
FLU CLINICS**

Route County's Public Health Agency

**FREE H1N1 FLU  
VACCINATIONS**

**NOW Available for ALL AGES.**

STARTED AT 11:00 AM

**E-mail**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Postal Customer Questionnaire

1. Please check the appropriate box to indicate whether you used the Sundance Plaza Station for each of the following:

Postal Services	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Never
a. Buying stamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Mailing letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Mailing parcels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Picking up Post Office box mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Picking up general delivery mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>				
f. Buying money orders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Obtaining special services, including Certified mail, Registered mail, Insured mail, Delivery Confirmation, or Signature Confirmation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Sending Express Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Buying stamp-collecting material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Other postal services:**

a. Entering permit mailings	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Resetting/using postage meter	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Nonpostal Services**

a. Picking up government forms (such as tax forms)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Using for school bus stop	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Assisting senior citizens, persons with disabilities, etc.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Using public bulletin board	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you pass another Post Office during business hours while traveling to or from work, or shopping, or for personal needs?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, which offices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you previously received carrier delivery, there will be no change to your delivery service - proceed to question 4. If you previously received Post Office box service or general delivery service, complete this section. How do you think carrier route delivery service compares to your previous service?

Better ☐

Just as Good ☐

No Opinion ☐

Worse ☐

Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. For which of the following do you leave your community? (Check all that apply.) Where do you go to obtain these services?

Shopping ☐

\_\_\_\_\_

Personal needs ☐

\_\_\_\_\_

Banking ☐

\_\_\_\_\_

Employment ☐

\_\_\_\_\_

Social needs ☐

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you currently use local businesses in the community?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, would you continue to use them if the Post Office is discontinued?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print your name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add any additional comments on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this form.  
Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.



# Customer Survey Data

*not here!*

- Survey questionnaires were the USPS standard form from Publication 101
- Survey forms went to each rented box in Sundance Station (2297)
- 27.6% of surveys were returned (635)
- 54.3% of the returned surveys had no opinion on the consolidation (345)
- 7.2% of the returned surveys were for consolidating Sundance Station (46)
- 38.4% of the returned surveys wanted Sundance Station to remain open (244)
- Those with either no opinion or supporting consolidation equal 61.5%

